THE

HORSEMAN'S HAND BOOK,

CONTAINING,

IN THIRTEEN LESSONS,

THE

LATEST AND BEST METHOD

FOR

Breaking and Educating Colts:

ALSO,

BREAKING UP THE HABITS AND VICES
OF BADLY SPOILED HORSES.

BY A. P. MASON,
OLEAN, N. Y.

YOUNG, LOCKWOOD & CO'S STEAM PRESS,
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PREFACE.

Having been for the past twenty years practically engaged in the business and study of handling and educating wild and vicious horses, and being familiar with all other systems, and having originated many of the latest and most valuable improvements in the art, I have now a regulated system of my own, written in a plain comprehensive manner, step by step, by which the most inexperienced need not fail in successfully handling and breaking colts, or horses of vicious habits. Knowing the need of such a work, and the advantages derived therefrom over all other systems, it is with pleasure that I now tender you this little work, entitled "THE HORSEMAN'S HAND BOOK," feeling confident that all who honor it by its perusal, may be benefitted thereby.

Very Respectfully,

A. P. MASON.

LESSON FIRST.

Get your colt into an enclosure from twenty to forty feet square, where there is no chance for him to escape or injure himself. Then approach him with a long bow-topped whip in the right hand, with the left hand extended, saying "*ho, boy,*" until he turns to leave you, when you will give him a few sharp cuts about the hind legs, saying "*Here sir! Come here!*" (stepping in his way as he runs around) and repeat, until from fear of the whip behind he will keep his head towards you, and will follow you around to the right or left at the word "*come along, boy,*" and will allow his head and neck to be handled; talking kindly the while, and keeping yourself in good humor at all times. Give a few oats from the hand, and let him rest for half an hour, and repeat until he comes promptly to you, and will allow the halter to be put on and taken off without fear.

LESSON SECOND.

Put on a five-ring halter; have a small, strong cord, about fifteen feet long; tie one end to the throat-piece of the halter, passing the other end through the mouth from the off side, and back on the near side over the throat piece. Then step to left about six feet, and opposite the shoul-

der, and saying, "*Come here sir!*" give a sharp pull upon the cord, letting up quickly that he may not struggle or throw himself. Repeat until he will come promptly at the word, or the slightest pull. Caress at each and every motion to obey you, by patting and rubbing the head and neck, and talking kindly to him. Then put the cord through the mouth the opposite way, and repeat on the other side. Then repeat on either side, leading by the halter stall, gradually pulling more in front, until he will lead straight ahead. Caress, (giving a few oats from the hand), and let him rest for half an hour, and then repeat.

LESSON THIRD.

Put on a halter, with cord as at first, take the cord in hand, stand in front, and saying "*Hold up, sir!*" jerk down upon the cord until the head is thrown up; caress, and repeat until he will obey at the word. Then take the cord in the right hand close to the head, with whip in the left hand behind you, and saying "*Come along, boy!*" start ahead, touching up with the whip from behind. Go twenty or thirty feet, when say "*Whoa!*" give a sharp jerk down upon the cord, repeating until he will start, walk promptly by your side, and stop at the word, (carrying his head well up the the while.) Then put the cord through

the mouth the opposite way, and repeat on the other side. Take off halter, give a few oats from the hand, and let him rest for half an hour and repeat.

LESSON FOURTH.

Put on a halter with cord as at first; work up the mouth a little, throwing the the head up, and saying "*Whoa, boy!*" put on a surcingle, (a leather strap one inch wide is sufficient,) then have a strap one inch wide and two feet long, made like a hame strap; loop it around the left ankle, raise the foot and buckle the strap around the surcingle short enough to prevent his bruising the other leg with his foot. Then take a broom (carefully at first) and brush him all over until he ceases to fear it. Change foot strap to the other foot, and rub with newspapers, letting him put his nose to them, &c., talking kindly, and letting him know by word and action that he is not going to be hurt, and that you are his friend. Let him rest a few minutes, and then strap up the other foot, then card him all over and comb out his tail. Then change foot strap, and show him a blanket, letting him smell of it; rub his head and neck with it; continuing all over him, and throw it on him, (lightly at first), and repeat until he will bear to have it thrown on to him carelessly, from any

direction, around his legs, &c. Rest a while, change the foot strap to the other foot, and repeat, using robe, bells, &c. Letting him move around on three legs with them on, until he has no fear of them. Rest, put up the other foot and repeat, using an umbrella; let him smell of it, rub him over with it, open it, turn it bottom side up, and let him eat oats out of it; carry it around and over him, occasionally letting him eat oats out of it until he has no fear of it. Then give a little rest, and put up the other foot and repeat with baby cart, wheelbarrow, &c., wheeling them around him, stopping in front of him, occasionally letting him eat oats out of them. Take off foot strap, let him rest, and repeat this lesson without foot strap.

LESSON FIFTH.

Put on a halter and lead him around a little; put on surcingle, strap up left forward foot, put on harness; take off halter and put on a bridle with easy snaffle bit, check loosely, buckle in the lines, which should be flat lines 7/8 of an inch wide and about 18 feet long, passing back through the thill tugs. Then put on short foot strap, with 1 1/4 inch ring attached on right foot; then have a cord about sixteen feet long, and tie one end to the surcingle, passing the other end down through the

ring in foot strap, and back over the surcingle. Have a common hame strap, loop it around the center of the breeching body, and buckle a 1¼ inch ring into it, and pass the cord through between the hind legs and through the ring, which keeps it from getting in under the foot. Now tie up your lines, take the cord in your hand, and let down the left foot, and start around, occasionally using the word "*whoa*," and pulling up the foot. Repeat, starting and stopping until he will do it promptly at the word, driving around either way. Change the foot strap to the other foot, and repeat. Unharness and rest.

LESSON SIXTH.

Put on harness, omitting the foot strap, checking a little higher. Get behind, with lines passed through the thill tugs; step to the left side of the colt, and pull on the right or off line, until he squares around; then on the other side, and repeat until he squares around promptly either way. Then drive ahead about twenty feet, when saying "*whoa!*" give a raking pull upon the bit, and repeat. Starting (with whip, if a little dull) and stopping, until he will stop at the word, from a walk or trot. Then standing still, and holding the left line about one foot shorter than the other, urge him patiently, tapping him lightly on the

off side, until, finding that he cannot go ahead he will soon learn to walk sideways. Then caress him, from which he will understand that he has done right. Repeat, until he will walk promptly either way. This requires great patience, but should be learned before hitching in shafts, that he will not wait for his head to be pulled around on his side, or the shaft to crowd him before turning around. Take off harness, rest and repeat.

LESSON SEVENTH.

Put on the harness, check a little higher; put an inch strap around the neck, into which the lines buckled, passing the back ends through the bit rings from the inside, and back through the thill tugs. Drive around, repeating the starting and stopping a few times, then open the door of the barn and drive out. This being his first lesson out of doors he may try to leap out, but with the lines attached in this way he is easily held. Repeat the former lessons in starting and stopping, walking sideways, &c. Then repeating the words "*whoa, boy!*" switch the whip, (lightly at first,) and holding him—from which he will soon learn that the sound of the whip means nothing. This should be repeated often, and while in motion. Drive around in this way one hour, then unharness and

rest for half an hour. After resting put on the harness same as before, and having a blanket or robe spread across the road, drive around and over it, until he will walk over it fearlessly. Drive over bridges, through water, and all places where colts are liable to be afraid, for an hour, then unharness and rest.

Prepare a piece of stove pipe, with a rope or strap eight feet long passed through it with the ends tied together to carry it by; put on the harness as before, (checking a little higher), and drive around letting the pipe drag on the road, lightly at first, and more as he will bear it, until he will not be afraid of all the noise you can make with it. Then accustom him to hearing it in different places, and on the trot; using the word "*whoa!*" occasionally, and forcing prompt obedience from both the walk and the trot, but never using that word unless you want him to stop; and never let him go, until you tell him to. Learn him to stand still in all places. Drive one hour and rest.

Now have prepared a hame collar, and a pair of common low topped team hames with hame straps, then have two straps, one inch wide and two feet long, and at tach one end of each strap to each hame staple with 1¼ inch rings in the other ends, which are to pass through the thill tugs, into which the side straps are buckeled—which prevents the collar from being

pushed over the head when backing. Then take two straight, smooth hickory poles, about 1¼ inches in diameter at small ends, and as near of a bigness the whole length as you can find them, and about ten feet long; lay them side by side, and put a saw horse (or the like) under each end, to get the bellies down. Then bore a ¾ inch hole straight through each pole, fifteen inches from the large ends; then prepare a crossbar of good timber, 1½ by 3 inches and five feet long, bore a ¾ inch hole two inches from each end, and one in the middle; round the ends, and bolt it on to the poles with half inch bolts, with wide washers above and below, putting nuts on top. Now attach a strong 1¼ inch breast snap securely to the small end of each pole at an angle to be easy to snap into the breast rings on the hames, then round up the back ends of the poles, that they may not stick into the ground when backing. Then loosen the bolts, so that one may be raised high enough to snap into the hame ring without raising the other one. Then take two basswood boards, six feet long, fifteen inches wide, and ¾ of an inch thick, lay them side by side, and put a sit cleat across each end with wrought nails; then bore a ¾ inch hole through the center of one cleat, and bolt it into the crossbar, cleat side up, with a ¾ inch bolt, nut on top, with washers top and bottom, and a thick one between crossbar and board.

And for a seat take a basswood board, one foot wide and five feet long, put a cleat across one end with wrought nails; bore a half inch hole two inches from each corner of the end having the cleat on, then lay this just back of the forward cleat on the wide board, and in the middle of it, and mark and bore the wide board to match the holes in the seat; then bolt on loosely with ½ inch bolts and washers, with nuts on top. Then take a plank 1½ inches thick, one foot wide and two feet long; then raise the seat and set the plank up edgewise in under it, and work it forward far enough to bring the seat to its proper height, and nail it from top and bottom; then tighten the bolts in it, and round off the corners of the plank, and round up the back end of the wide board, when you are ready for

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LESSON EIGHTH.

Put on the harness, with the collar and hames which you have prepared, with breeching straps buckled into the rings spoken of, and have the lines adjusted as before, except to pass them through the *line rings in the hames*, instead of through the thill tugs. Put on foot straps with a cord, as before. Drive around between the poles; pull up the foot; take a hitch in the cord to hold it; hitch on the poles and let him go five or six rods on three legs.

Then let foot the down, keeping the cord in hand; drive around, turning to right and left until he gets used to the poles against his sides and legs, and the rattle of them behind him without fear. After driving an hour, unharness and rest one hour.

Then harness up again, omitting foot strap, (if he is not too wild,) and drive around, bearing down on the seat as he will bear and learns to pull, stopping occasionally, and going to him, pat and talk kindly to him, on either side; work patiently, until he will draw you when going along, and, by degrees, he will learn to start the board with you on it. Repeat a few times, and drive into the barn, unharness, and rest an hour.

Then hitch up in the barn, and drive out bearing on the board; drive back, turn around, get on, and let him draw you out a few times, until he will draw you straight out of the barn without sheering to the right or left, when he is ready to hitch to wagon. Unharness and rest.

LESSON NINTH.

Put on the harness, with breast collar and traces, harnessing otherwise as before, with lines passed through the pad terrets; put on foot strap, with cord; lead around in front of wagon, (which should be a light one,) pull up the foot, take a hitch in the

cord to hold it up; then pull up the wagon, shake the thills about him; drop them on floor a few times; pull the crossbar against him, lightly at first, and by degrees with force. Then hitch on; shake the wagon and harness; getting in and out a few times, with lines in hand, talking to him the while. Then let down his foot, keeping cord in hand; then get in, put the cord over the seat, straddle it, and sit on it, having it handy if needed; drive around, turning right and left, bringing the wheel against the rub iron on either side, until he has no fear of it. Then repeat the lessons of starting and stopping promptly, from the walk, then from the trot; getting him used to the breeching being forced against him. Drive in this way about an hour; then drive in, unharness, and give an hour rest, giving good care and a few oats. Then repeat, (if he has behaved well), omitting foot strap. Now you can drive him from two to three miles and back, twice a day for a few days, when it will answer to drive double the distance.

LESSON TENTH.

TO LEARN YOUR COLT TO STAND TIED, HITCHED TO WAGON.

First hitch into the poles; have a strong strap (made for the purpose) to buckle around the neck, with a ¾ inch rope attached; buckle around the neck and pass

the rope through the bit ring and tie to a strong post or tree. Then pass by him with an umbrella in different positions, and from different directions, until he does not fear it. Repeat with baby cart, wheelbarrow, &c. Repeat when hitched in different places, when it will be safe when hitched to wagon. Use this arrangement to tie with at all times.

LESSON ELEVENTH.

TO LEARN YOUR COLT TO RIDE.

Put on riding bridle; shut the door; take him by the bit with left hand; spring back and grab the tail with right hand, and whirl him lively five or six times around; then, taking the reins firmly in left hand, jump on, being dizzy he will not notice it. Rub your legs against him; pat him all around as far as you can reach, talking kindly the while. Get off, and repeat until you can mount him *carelessly* as you please, and can ride him around in the barn. Then repeat out of doors, when you can ride him where you please.

LESSON TWELFTH.

TO LEARN YOUR COLT TO DRIVE DOUBLE.

First hitch by the side of a gentle horse (checking as before,) putting on the off side; put on a neck yoke, and drive around

a little. Then, if you have no assistant, put on foot strap with cord on left foot, passing the cord back on near side, and, if he seems wild, bring the cord over the back. Raise the foot and tie the cord into the off hame ring, holding the foot up until you get all hitched on. Then take lines on the off side, untie the cord from the hame, letting the foot down; get in, passing the cord over the seat, and sitting on it; drive around, repeating the lessons of starting, stopping, turning around, backing, &c. Then repeat with the colt on the near side. Then omit foot strap, and drive from three to six miles and back daily, for a few days, driving up and down hill, over bridges, &c., when, if all has went well, he may be considered well trained to ride and drive.

LESSON THIRTEENTH.

WHICH MAY PRECEDE THE LATTER HALF OF LESSON NINTH.

A short lesson preparatory to shoeing, and we are done with the colt.

Hitch by the halter on the barn floor; have a small piece of wood about four inches long, with a notch cut around the center, into which tie the cord fifteen inches from the end; now pass the short end of the cord through the near halter ring, (the piece of wood being against the ring.)

Then raise the upper lip and pass the cord snugly in under it, and tie to the off halter ring. Now proceed to handle his feet, as in shoeing, and when he attempts to free his feet do not struggle with him, but let go, and give a litle jerk upon the cord, saying "*whoa, sir!*" and repeat until he will be quiet, and let you handle his feet as you please.

TO HANDLE A KICKER OR RUNAWAY.

Use Mason's Patent Bridle Bit, which patent covers any thing in *under the upper lip*, by which to check or drive. This bit is so constructed that nothing is discoverable when on the horse from the ordinary bit in use.

DIRECTIONS FOR USING MASON'S PATENT BRIDLE BIT.

Buckle into the bridle the same as any bit, and, when adjusting the bit in the mouth the *loop thereon* is passed up over the upper teeth and under the upper lip, (the bridle being buckled sufficiently tight to hold it there.) Check reasonably short, have a standing martingale around the nose to keep him from throwing his nose too high. Then drive around occasionally using the word "*whoa!*" and forcing

obedience with the bit. Learn him to walk sideways as heretofore explained, punishing with both whip and rein at any attempt to kick. This first lesson is driving with the lines running loose to the bit on either side without being hitched to wagon. After a little driving in this way, uncheck and rest a few minutes, then put up the check and hitch to wagon and all will be well.

FOR KICKING WHILE GROOMING

Use cord same as in Lesson Thirteen—punishing with cord at each attempt to kick. You will not have occasion to repeat it many times.

FOR BITING.

Use the same treatment. If a stallion avoid punishing, by putting the chin strap stationary in the left ring of the halter with the buckle close to the ring; then punch holes enough in the other end so that it may be taken up so short that he cannot open his mouth while grooming or shoeing. If he has both habits use both remedies.

TO LEARN A HORSE TO STAND WITHOUT HITCHING.

Have a short foot strap with ring attached on each ankle; tie the cord into a ring on right footstrap, and pass the other end over the surcingle and down through ring in the left footstrap, and back over the surcingle; then between hind legs and through a ring attached to breeching body; just back of this ring tie a knot or key in the cord, (giving him enough to travel freely, but to prevent the rest of it from sliding through and getting tangled in his feet and legs.) Then prepare a weight, similar to heavy log chain folded up into a bundle about three feet long, and a strap buckled around it, made heavy enough so that he could not drag it without pulling his feet up. Then place yourself on smooth ground in the yard or field, and attach the back end of the cord to the weight, step back and wait for him to start. Let him try it, if he gets on to his knees or down, loosen the cord for him, by moving the weight towards him, letting him up; and repeat until you can go from him in any direction and he dare not move. Then lead or ride another horse around him. Let him try it on in different places. When he gets it learned, repeat when hitched in the poles, and from that to the wagon, and in a few days he will stand without the foot straps.